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Volume 4 *Something Made Different*

Article 2

1-1-2013

Something Made Different

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Recommended Citation

Kerner, John J. (2013) "Something Made Different," *Datum: student journal of architecture*: Vol. 4 , Article 2.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/datum/vol4/iss1/2>

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something · made · different

When reflecting on this year's Datum we found the term "something made different" a rather poetic statement that encompasses our discussions. Many changes have been occurring around us as a student body as the architecture department continues to look for a new chair and the NAAB Accreditation inspecting the program. The two instances were different from other guests in the past, for they had a stake in the future curriculum of the architecture program. While a lecture or critique from an outside perspective may provoke new discussion, the two process involves a shaping of the framework of how students view their position in the world. The NAAB accreditation involved an outside assertion of value systems onto us, to see if our education was up to a set of standards. The architecture chair search involved us having to ask what kind of person would be best for our education. Since the two process are just the beginning, the effects have yet to be seen.

The first half, made, resonates with us as students of architecture. As students we are often compelled to make, and to understand what it means to make. We find meaning in the fact that everything, from material products, spaces, cultures are made. Nothing is static, it is always evolving, refracting, and materializing the forces of cultural systems. Studio, where we do most of our learning, depends on things that are made. We are in a position in our life where we are constantly making and putting things out in the world to be judged on merit and whether what we made has any impact.

When thinking about the latter half, different, we thought of this as our identity. Identity depends on first the relation of surrounding. We find our collective identity in Datum through our discussions, comparing experiences, trading stories, talking about what's current in our studies. We hope that this publication can be looked back on in later years and be able to read it as a documentation of what is on the minds of students studying architecture at Iowa State University in the academic years Fall 2012 – Spring 2013. The difference of this publication from other publications is specifically the time period and the people that has given shape to it, different in the concerns, questions and influences of the outer world on our thoughts.

Datum has come to terms with this as an opportunity for us students to voice ourselves within this given moment in time. It is with optimism that a publication like this can encourage more emerging students to voice their own identities.



John J. Kerner, Co - Editor, 2012 - 2013